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CONFIDENTIAL CLASSIFICATION CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY REPORT INFORMATION FROM FOREIGN DOCUMENTS OR RADIO BROADCASTS CD NO. COUNTRY USSR DATE OF INFORMATION 1950 **SUBJECT** Scientific - Terminology DATE DIST. 6 Oct 1950 HOW PUBLISHED Monthly periodical WHERE NO. OF PAGES PUBLISHED Moscow PUBLISHED Feb 1950 LANGUAGE Russian

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SOURCE

Elektrichestvo, No 2, 1950, p 92.

DEFENSE OF CONVENTIONAL SOVIET TERMINOLOGY

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In connection with the work in progress on Soviet technical terminology and the problem of purifying it from foreign terms, it is necessary to draw attention to the selection of one of the two main ways of dealing with the matter. These are to introduce either (1) conventional terms or (2) descriptive terms. In Elektrichestvo, No 9, 1949, O. I. Zolotarev selects the second method ____; I deem it necessary to defend the first.

Persons working on terminology know how difficult it is to construct a definition of this or that term, partly because every definition must satisfy the requirements of monosignificance. All the concepts embraced by the term should be covered by the definition, and all extraneous concepts should be excluded. I shall not speak here of the many other requirements which a definition must satisfy.

From this viewpoint, objection must be made to descriptive terms. For example, are all rot trols "amplifiers with combined excitation?" Yes, all of them. But can it not be conceded that at some future date an amplifier with combined excitation will appear and not be a rototrol in the present sense of the word? It undoubtedly can. And so it is with any term. By introducing conventional terms, we not only obtain shorter expressions, but also stipulate exactly what we understand by any particular term, thus obviating possible subsequent misunderstandings. Of course, the conventional terms will win out only if they are combinations of portions of words, and not chance sets of letters.

For example, the two expressions "distribution of luminous intensity" of sources and "light distribution" of sources are still competing. Apart from the fact that the latter, the conventional term, is shorter, it is valuable because in introducing it we clearly agree to understand it to mean the distribution of luminous intensity in various directions of space. As for

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"distribution of luminous intensity," this descriptive term may be taken to mean something else, e.g., the distribution of luminosity between separate elements or of the installction as a whole.

I suggest that, likewise, there is no difficulty in proposing precise and convenient Russian terms for new types of electric machines.

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